

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

S. J. R. No. 18.] SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION.

Proposing and submitting to a vote of the people of Texas an amendment to Section 52 of Article 3 of the Constitution, authorizing the issuance of bonds for public improvements, and levying of a tax to pay the interest and sinking fund on same, and for maintenance.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. That Section 52 of Article 3 of the Constitution of the State of Texas be amended so as hereafter to read as follows, to wit:

Section 52. The Legislature shall have no power to authorize any county, city, town or other political corporation or subdivision of the State, to lend its credit or to grant public money or thing of value in aid of, or to, any individual, association or corporation whatsoever, or to become a stockholder in such corporation, association or company; provided, however, that under legislative provision any county, any political subdivision of a county, or any defined district now or hereafter to be described and defined within the State of Texas, and which may or may not include towns, villages, or municipal corporations, upon a vote of two-thirds majority of the resident property taxpayers voting thereon who are qualified electors of such district or territory to be affected thereby, in addition to all other debts may issue bonds or otherwise lend its credit in any amount not to exceed one-fourth of the assessed valuation of the real property of such district or territory; except that the total bonded indebtedness of any city or town shall never exceed the limits imposed by other provisions of this Constitution; and levy and collect such taxes to pay the interest thereon and provide a sinking fund for the redemption thereof as the Legislature may authorize, and in such manner as it may authorize the same, for the following purposes, to wit:

(a) The improvement of rivers, creeks and streams to prevent overflows, and to permit of navigation thereof, or irrigation therefrom, or in aid of such purposes.

(b) The construction and maintenance of pools, lakes, reservoirs, dams, canals and waterways for the purposes of irrigation, drainage or navigation, or in aid thereof.

(c) The construction, maintenance and operation of macadamized, graveled or paved roads and turnpikes, or in aid thereof.

Provided, however, that under legislative enactment any defined district now or hereafter to be described and defined within the State of Texas, which may be formed for the purpose of reclaiming and improving overflowed and swamp lands in this state, and maintaining the improvements thereof, may, upon a vote of two-thirds majority of the resident property taxpayers voting thereon who are qualified electors of such district or territory, in addition to all other debts, issue bonds or otherwise lend its credit in any amount not to exceed

fifty per cent of the assessed valuation of the real property in such district or territory.

Provided, further, that where a county, district or other political subdivision has issued bonds for improvements for the purposes named in this section, the Legislature may authorize the levy and collection of taxes for the maintenance of such improvements, not to exceed fifty cents on the hundred dollars valuation in any one year.

SEC. 2. The foregoing amendment of Section 52 of Article 3 of the Constitution of Texas shall be submitted to the qualified electors of this state for its adoption or rejection, at a special election hereby ordered for the fourth Saturday in July, A. D. 1915, the same being the.....day of said month. All voters on this proposed amendment at said election who favor its adoption shall have printed or written on their ballots the following: "For amendment of Section 52 of Article 3 of the Constitution, authorizing the issuance of bonds for levee, drainage, road and other public improvements, and for taxes therefor." Those voting against its adoption shall have printed or written on their ballots the following: "Against the amendment of Section 52 of Article 3 of the Constitution, authorizing the issuance of bonds for levee, drainage, road and other public improvements, and for taxes therefor." Previous to the election the Secretary of State shall cause to be printed and forwarded to the County Judge of each county, for use in said election, a sufficient number of ballots for the use of the voters in each county, on which he shall have printed the form of ballot herein prescribed, for the convenient use of voters.

SEC. 3. The Governor of the State is hereby directed to issue his necessary proclamation ordering this election, and have the same published as required by the Constitution and laws of this State. The sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to defray the expenses of publishing said proclamation, and printing and distributing the necessary tickets and blanks for use in said election.

[NOTE.—S. J. R. No. 18 was adopted by the Senate March 16, yeas 24, nays 0. Was adopted by the House March 18, yeas 105, nays 4.]

Approved March 22, 1915.